

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M)

SUBJ: CODEL KENNEDY

1. SUMMARY: SENATOR KENNEDY, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SISTER, MRS. JEAN KENNEDY SMITH AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT ROBERT HUNTER, MADE OVERNIGHT VISIT TO JORDAN NOVEMBER 17-18. VISIT FEATURED BREAKFAST WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN FOLLOWED BY ONE HOUR MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN; BOTH MEETINGS WERE ATTENDED BY SENATOR'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR AND MRS. PICKERING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN, WHICH DEALT MAINLY WITH ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION, KING REAFFIRMED JORDAN'S DETERMINATION, FOLLOWING RABAT SUMMIT DECISION SUPPORTING PLO ON WEST BANK, TO CONCENTRATE MAINLY ON EAST BANK POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. HOWEVER, IN REPLY TO SENATOR'S QUERIES BOTH KING HUSSEIN AND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN TENDED TO DISCOUNT SUPPORT OF PLO BY PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN ANY ULTIMATE POLITICAL SENSE. THEY ALSO EVINCED SKEPTICISM THAT PLO WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. SENATOR INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN CONTINUING ACTIVE PURSUIT OF MIDEAST PEACE BY ARABS AND ISRAELIS. HE GAVE KING AND CROWN PRINCE PERSONAL COPIES OF SENATOR'S NOVEMBER 17 SPEECH AT BEERSHEBA HEALTH CENTER IN ISRAEL WHICH HE INDICATED CONVEYED
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THAT THEME.

3. CROWN PRINCE ALSO BRIEFED SENATOR KENNEDY ON JORDANIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS PARTICULARLY ON RESULTS OF HIGHLY USEFUL VISIT TO JORDAN BY WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA, WHICH CONCLUDED NOVEMBER 17.

4. DESPITE CONCURRENT VISIT BY IRANIAN EMPRESS FARAH, SENATOR'S VISIT RECEIVED GOOD PUBLICITY, WHICH INCLUDED PHOTO COVERAGE OF EVENING ARRIVAL IN JORDAN FROM ALLENBY BRIDGE AND AIRPORT DEPARTURE PHOTOS AND STATEMENT NOVEMBER 18. IN STATEMENT, SENATOR KENNEDY EXPRESSED HIS HAPPINESS ON BEING ABLE TO VISIT JORDAN ONCE AGAIN. HE MENTIONED FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH KING HUSSEIN AND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND REAFFIRMED LONG-STANDING ADMIRATION OF AMERICANS FOR KING HUSSEIN AND THEIR CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP FOR JORDAN.

5. ALTHOUGH VISIT WAS SHORT, WE BELIEVE IT WAS USEFUL TO BOTH SENATOR KENNEDY AND KING HUSSEIN AND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN. SENATOR EVINCED STRONG INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND JORDANIANS UNDOUBTEDLY APPRECIATED SENATOR'S INCLUSION OF JORDAN IN HIS CURRENT OVERSEAS ITINERARY.

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